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Worldwide Report

LAW OF THE SEA

No. 202

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WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

NEW ZEALAND RENEWS FISHING PACTS WITH ROK, USSR

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 19 May 82 p 5

[Text] Korean and Russian fishing boats can continue to fish New Zealand waters until at least 1984.

Agreements signed in 1978 have been renewed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Cooper, the Korean Ambassador, Mr Y. Hahn, and the Soviet charge d'affaires, Mr. V. Azaroushkin.

The original agreements, arrived at separately, gave the two countries access to New Zealand's 200-mile exclusive economic zone.

The agreements have been extended two years, to September 30, 1984, but otherwise remain unchanged.

Mr Cooper said in Wellington yesterday that the extensions confirmed the value of the agreements to both New Zealand and its foreign partners.

"The Government has deliberately limited the extension to two years because the fishing industry is going through a period of development and we want to keep our options open for accommodating its increasing needs," Mr Cooper said.

The Government is also expected to extend its fisheries agreement with Japan for a similar period under the existing arrangements.

The agreements cover only foreign licensed boats and not joint ventures.

The maintenance of the status quo will not please all the foreign fishing nations as some, Japan in particular, have expressed concern over the areas it has been allocated to fish and the fees and some technical terms.

Local joint venture companies looking to expand their activities at the expense of licensed boats, particularly for squid and southern bluefin tuna, may also find reason to complain.

CSO: 5200/9092

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

JAPAN, USSR RESUME SUPERVISION OF SALMON FISHING--Kushiro, Hokkaido, June 12 KYODO--Three Japanese patrol boats left Kushiro Saturday with Soviet observers aboard for the first joint Soviet-Japanese supervision of salmon fishing in six years. Three Soviet Fisheries Ministry officials and three Soviet interpreters boarded the Japanese fishery agency ships to observe operations of medium-sized salmon fishing boats during this year's season in northern waters. Japanese patrol boats began carrying Soviet observers in 1962, but the practice was suspended in 1976. The joint supervision has been reviewed at the strong request of the Soviet Union following a recent rash of illegal operations by Japanese salmon fishers. [Text] [OWI21225 Tokyo KYODO in English 1215 GMT 12 Jun 82]

CSO: 5200/2088

NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA TO PROTECT BLUEFIN TUNA ASSET

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 24 May 82 p 33

[Text] New Zealand and Australia have agreed to develop a joint management strategy for southern bluefin tuna, one of the most commercially valuable fish in the sea.

"They saw the need for and desirability of co-operating with us," said the assistant director-general of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr John Belgrave, who has just returned from discussions with his Australian counterparts.

"We will be able to get down to specific details when the Australians have discussed the matter fully with their fishing companies."

A fisheries research division scientist, Mr David Gibson, described southern bluefin tuna as "potentially, New Zealand's most valuable fishery."

"The number of fish coming into New Zealand's exclusive economic zone depends on the number of small fish caught by the Australians, the number of large fish caught by the Japanese outside the zone, and the

number of large fish caught by New Zealand's commercial fishermen," he said.

Southern bluefin tuna spawn in the Indian Ocean south of Java. They then undertake a three-year journey around the south coast of Australia before spreading through the South Pacific and South Atlantic oceans.

One-year-old and two-year-old fish are caught off Western Australia and three, four and five-year-olds off New South Wales. The Japanese catch the adult fish in both the Pacific and South Atlantic and off New Zealand's east coast, while local fishermen catch them off the west coast.

"In order to manage the resource, we need the three countries to agree on an international management strategy," Mr Gibson said.

Scientists are concerned that the combined catch figures for Australia and Japan show that the weight of the catch is declining while the number of fish caught is simultaneously increasing.

They estimate that this year's combined Australian and Japanese catch could reach 50,000 tonnes.

To maintain present spawning stock, a reduction to 28,000 tonnes is necessary.

The Australians doubled their catch to 20,000 tonnes last year. This year the catch is slightly greater. Japanese long-line vessels fishing in New Zealand waters report an average total catch of 5000 tonnes valued at \$62 million annually.

The one-to-five-year-old fish caught for Australia's canning industry fetch 77c a kilogram and mature fish caught in New Zealand waters fetch \$12 a kilogram. They sell on the Japanese market for between \$3 and \$30 a kilogram depending on the quality.

CSO: 5200/9093

NEW ZEALAND, JAPAN DISAGREEMENTS ON FISHING REVIEWED

Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 18 May 82 p 6

[Text]

The New Zealand fisheries agreement with Japan on conditions of access to the New Zealand 200-mile zone expires next month. It is expected to be extended, although Japan may submit requests for improved access and less restricted operations within the zone.

New Zealand, in its documents delivered to the Japanese Foreign Ministry on April 30, points out that Japan still inhibits New Zealand fish exports by a series of quota and tariff restrictions, not to mention non-tariff barriers.

BRUCE ROSCOE in Tokyo looks at some of the arguments on fishing which still divide New Zealand and Japan, four years after the 200-mile zone was declared.

Japan's pelagic fishing industry is "on the skids with no signs of improvement in sight," says a recent report in Japan's major financial daily, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun.

And, according to industry representatives, Japanese fishing companies are indicating renewed, intense interest in catching larger volumes of several species from New Zealand waters.

Indonesia and Mauritania, Japan fears, are planning to shut Japanese vessels out of their respective zones altogether so that their own boats can sell more to Japan.

Four Japanese fishing companies, Taiyo, Kyokuyo, Nichiro Gyogyo and Hoko, already have suspended operations off Mauritania over discord on access fees.

On yet another troubled front, the Japanese Government this month filed

protests with the United States against last month's cut from an expected 287,000-tonne catch quota to only 172,000 tonnes for the second 1982 allocation.

Contentious Problem

These and other factors — though the species sought vary from region to region — are focusing Japanese attention on New Zealand's 200-mile zone.

It has been four years since New Zealand closed its zone to Japanese fishing vessels in an effort to secure more access to the Japanese market for livestock and dairy produce.

Japanese boats soon afterwards were permitted

re-entry in exchange for no obvious trade concessions though under severely limiting conditions — and still bones of contention grate.

The Japanese Government is expecting revisions to those conditions imposed by the New Zealand Government, as a result of joint fishery surveys recently carried out in New Zealand waters.

Results of the latest survey, conducted by the semi-governmental Japan Marine Fishery Resource Research Centre, were referred to the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries earlier this month.

One persistent argument concerns mesh selection;

that is, the choice of net type. Japan is not permitted to use nets with mesh of less than 100 millimetres for fishing jack mackerel in the zone.

But nets with bigger mesh let the smaller mackerel, the only ones Japan finds of any real commercial value (for use in "tempura" or "aji furai" dishes), escape.

Depletion Of Stocks

In the survey held off the west coast of the North Island (area "H") last October and November, the Japanese research vessel Shinkai Maru investigated the net question and assessed the danger posed to other species by smaller nets.

The restriction is said to be intended to prevent depletion of stocks of young species, snappers in particular, of value to New Zealand fishermen.

Japanese researchers say the survey's findings, and also data from an earlier survey off the west coast of both islands (areas "H" and "G") on jack mackerel biomass, geographic distribution and size, prove New Zealand fears unfounded.

The trawlers fish for mackerel—and mackerel it is they haul up. The fishing is seasonal, they say, and other species are not significantly apparent in the mackerel schools.

Though the research format is mutually agreed, and New Zealand fisheries experts participate in the work on board, the New Zealand Government wishes to discourage further research of this nature, mainly out of the belief that local fishermen would regard any approval as a case of special treatment for Japan, since local boats also are not permitted use of fine nets.

But the data collected from these surveys, all

made at the expense of the Japanese Government which has appropriated a yearly budget of about \$1 million for the research, are distributed free to the New Zealand Government.

If few or no changes to the restrictions result from the research, by which Japan obviously will seek to demonstrate that species it wants more of are in plentiful supply, New Zealand could well risk gaining the reputation at Government level in Japan that it is simply using the Japanese Government to advantage by getting its fisheries research done free.

Research Done Without Cost

If New Zealand accepts the conclusions Japan draws from the research, should it dismantle the restrictions because such was, at least implicitly, the understanding reached between the two governments before Japan compiled the research budget?

Or should the matter be treated as one requiring more complex negotiation, concessions dependent on Japan lowering its considerable tariff and non-tariff barriers against fish New Zealand wishes to sell to Japan?

Fishery research experts at the marine centre contend that New Zealand fishery expertise has not yet reached the stage where persuasive arguments can be made for more sales of New Zealand-caught fish against the expansion of Japanese quotas for various species within the zone.

This contention, however, should be wearing thin in some cases.

Solander Fisheries of Nelson, for example, has purchased a tuna vessel from Japan, which transferred to the New Zealand flag last month.

It replaces the Taiwan-

ese boat Solander chartered last year to work off the West Coast, and should be much better equipped to facilitate the lightning-quick, on-board processing and freezing of tuna needed to produce the quality demanded by Japanese buyers.

Quick-freeze Process

The centre says Japan has "plenty to complain about." It is shut out of four zone regions. For the less productive zones to which it does have access, its trawling catch quota last year was set at 66,000 tonnes, of which it managed to secure only 20,281 tonnes.

There are fewer complaints these day about squid, or tuna, though tuna fishing fees are still claimed to be excessive.

New Zealand, too, has "plenty to complain about." Fish import restrictions form a large section of the list of Japanese tariff and non-tariff barriers affecting New Zealand, which was presented in protest to the Japanese Government last month.

In particular, New Zealand is seeking expanded quotas for exports of yellowtail species, mackerel and squid or, as a free trading system would demand, no quotas at all.

It would be timely for the industries and politicians of both countries to come to the negotiating table and trade equal concessions. Next month the fisheries agreement, allowing Japan access to the zone, expires.

New Zealand's fish exports to Japan last year were worth \$36.5 million cif, a 65 per cent increase over 1980 sales.

AUSTRALIA

GOVERNMENT IN TALKS WITH JAPAN, OTHERS ON BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 12 May 82 p 16

[Article by Richard Eckersley]

[Text] Life clearly isn't meant to be easy for the southern bluefin tuna.

In fact it has become an unrelenting battle to escape the net and hook, a battle the fish now looks like losing.

The southern bluefin tuna spawns in the Indian Ocean south of Java. The young fish migrate around the south coast of Australia, a three-year journey, before spreading through the South Pacific and South Atlantic oceans.

They first return to the spawning ground when they are seven years old and, as far as is known, go back there each year. They can live for 20 years, reaching a weight of more than 100 kg and a length of up to two metres.

The tuna is hunted and harried throughout its life.

"In general they are caught as one and two-year-olds off Western Australia, two and three-year-olds off South Australia and three, four and five-year-olds off NSW." a CSIRO researcher, Dr Garth Murphy, said.

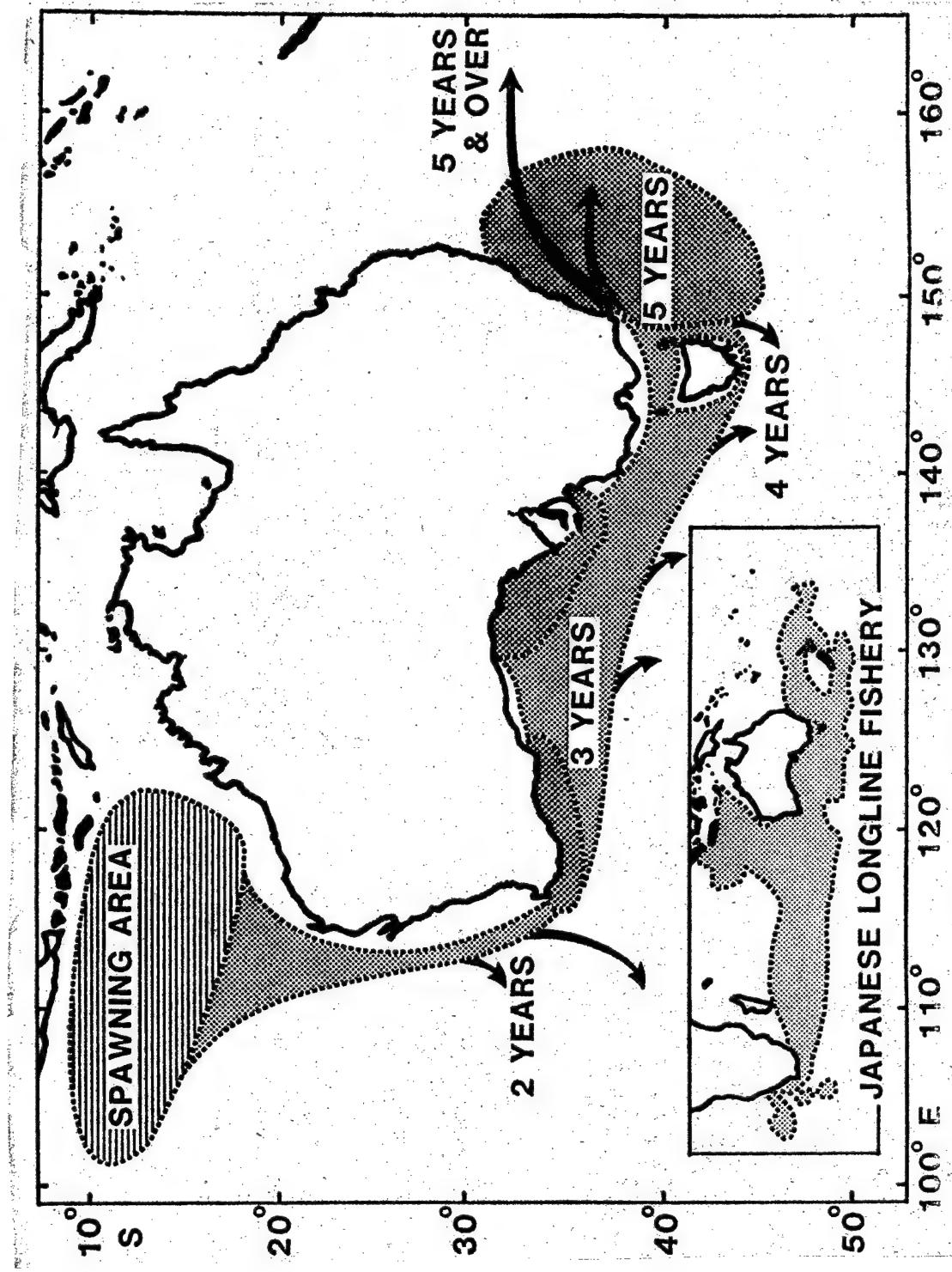
"Older fish are caught by the Japanese in waters away from the Australian coast."

Dr Murphy and Dr Jacek Majkowski, of the CSIRO's division of fisheries research, believe large catches are causing a continuous decline on spawning stock.

Unless this decline is arrested, there could be a catastrophic collapse of the southern bluefin tuna population in as little as five or six years, they say.

"Scientists are concerned that the combined catch figures for southern bluefin tuna for both Australia and Japan show that the weight of the catch is declining while the number of fish being caught is simultaneously increasing," Dr Murphy said.

This was symptomatic of a stock being continually reduced in size, he said.



The spawning and migration pattern of the southern bluefin tuna.

The southern bluefin tuna is one of the mainstays of the Australian fishing industry. More than 20,000 tonnes of the fish, worth about \$15 million have been taken by Australian boats this financial year.

"A collapse of that industry would have profound effects on the Australian fishing industry," Dr Murphy said.

The combined Australian and Japanese catch could reach 50,000 tonnes this year, he said. To maintain the present spawning stock, the scientists estimate that the combined catch should be reduced to about 28,000 tonnes.

Dr Murphy said a framework for international management of the fish was now being discussed by the governments of Australia, Japan and New Zealand. South Africa would also possibly be involved.

CSO: 5200/7542

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

GAS DRILLING SUPPLY SHIP--Australian Offshore Services (AOS), part of the energy services division of P & O Australia Ltd, recently placed an order for a new anchor-handling supply vessel to be built by Australian Shipbuilding Industries (WA) Pty Ltd at Cockburn Sound, Western Australia. The 2650-tonne displacement ship will be the largest in the AOS fleet and the first built for the company in Western Australia. Delivery is scheduled for September 1982, after which the ship will join other units of the AOS fleet serving oil and gas projects in Bass Strait and off the West Australian coast. AOS was founded in 1968 and has ordered 14 ships in the same number of years from Australian shipyards. Traditionally, AOS ships are named after the wives of P & O Australia Ltd directors, and have the prefix Lady. The new vessel, due to be launched in late July, will be named Lady Elizabeth after Mrs Anne Elizabeth Blanckensee, wife of Mr Alan Blanckensee, a member of the board. The Lady Elizabeth's principal dimensions are: overall length, 66.30m, beam 14.15m, depth 5.65m.
[Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 13 May 82 p 23]

CSO: 5200/7542

TRAWLERS BOUGHT FROM UK HEAD FOR DEEP-SEA FISHING AREAS

Auckland NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 17 May 82 p 5

[Text]

The Otago Buccaneer has sailed from Dunedin for deep sea trawling grounds and the first returns on a \$15 million investment in the New Zealand fishing industry by Fletcher Fishing Ltd.

The 85-metre trawler is heading for the deep water orange roughy grounds with 10 New Zealanders among the mainly British crew.

Fletcher Fishing's other deep sea trawler, the Otago Galliard, will also leave Dunedin this week.

The former Icelandic trawlers arrived in Dunedin last month after sailing from Britain where they were bought last year.

At the time the Government decision approving the vessels' importation and the willingness by Fletcher to pay full duty on the trawlers angered other sections of the fishing industry.

The Government was accused of favouritism towards Fletcher because of its decision to defer approval of other deep sea trawler applications.

Interest

The \$15 million investment by Fletcher Fishing involves spending on the trawlers, shore processing and storage facilities. The company has estimated that its investment will generate a cash flow of between \$15 million and \$20

million in processed fish exports each year.

The venture attracted strong interest from New Zealanders wishing to crew the boats.

The managing director of Fletcher Fishing Ltd, Mr Eric Henry, said 200 applied for crew positions.

Following interviews in Dunedin 10 crewmen were selected for each trawler. They will join about 20 British crewmen on each trawler and undergo training.

The company hopes both trawlers will have full New Zealand crews within two years.

Mr Henry said New Zealand fishermen still had to prove themselves on the 85-metre vessels.

But he was confident the New Zealanders, who would have to spend up to two weeks at sea at a time, would soon master the skills needed.

The fishing industry generally regards New Zealand fishermen as comparable with any in the world and capable of tackling the rigours of deepwater fishing.

Another fishing company, Sanford Ltd, has re-equipped

two of its trawlers, the San Hauraki and the San Manukau, at Auckland. Both

have been undergoing seal trials.

New winches and other deepsea gear have been put on the 30-metre boats to enable them to fish in deep water--a move the company was forced to make because of the Government's reluctance to approve further trawler imports.

The general manager of Sanford Ltd, Mr David Anderson, said that despite their small size the trawlers were capable of working in rugged conditions.

CSO: 5200/9094

THAILAND

TERRITORIAL WATERS, OTHER PROBLEMS PLAGUE FISHING INDUSTRY

Territorial Waters Problems

Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 20 Apr 82 p 7

[Thoughts From the News column by Prachuap: "Problems of the Fishermen"]

[Text] Recently, stories about several problems of the fishermen have appeared in the newspapers. Even though the fishermen are not in the majority in the country as are the farmers, there are still large numbers of people in this profession. And this occupation plays an important role in the economic affairs of the people and country in general. This is because, besides the fact that fishing products provide moderately priced food for consumption in the present living conditions of the people, these are export products that earn an income for the country that almost equals that earned by agricultural products.

Thus, concerning the problems of the fishermen, it can be said that these are important problems that must be given attention. The government should consider them to be problems that must be solved quickly before things are too late.

Concerning the problems of the fishermen, from what has appeared in the news recently, there are three major problems:

First, there is the matter of safety in earning a living in this profession. In some provinces, the fishermen do not dare go out fishing because pirates are waiting to rob and kill them, especially in the southern provinces. Besides this, when they go fishing in international waters, they are robbed or captured by foreign pirates, both military and nonmilitary, who charge that they have illegally entered and fished in their territorial waters.

Second, there is the problem of a shortage of fishing grounds. This is because Thai fishing activities have made great strides forward. It is thought that [Thailand] is seventh in the world in the amount of fish caught. And it is first in Asia. The fishing products exported by Thailand are very popular on world markets.

Third is the problem of low prices for duck fish, or small fish, that are used to make fish meal to supply the plants that produce animal food. The low prices have caused great problems for the fishermen since they cannot recover their investments, or cover the costs. Normally, more than 60 percent of the ocean fish caught by the fishermen are small fish, or duck fish as they are called since they used to be used to raise ducks.

Concerning the problem of the fishermen's safety and security, from pirates, that has arisen in Thailand's territorial waters, it is my understanding that this problem exists only in certain provinces. I am sure that if government officials take a genuine interest in this matter, it will not be difficult to suppress [the pirates]. This type of crime must be committed at sea, or boats must be used as the means of transportation. Thus, it is not easy for people to be pirates. The fact that government officials have not been able to suppress them has thus easily given rise to a misunderstanding. For example, people feel that officials have ignored this and are not interested. Or it is believed that there is not enough manpower or equipment to suppress them or that officials are involved or have secret interests in the activities of the pirates.

As for the lack of safety of the fishermen who fish in international waters, this problem has arisen mainly because officials of neighboring countries have arrested them on charges of violating the country's territorial waters. That is, they have been charged with fishing in the territorial waters of these countries. It seems that there is still disagreement over the facts and that no final agreement can be reached.

The first problem is the difficulty of delimiting definite territorial waters for each country. This is because, in the ocean, no clear markers can be erected to delimit the zone as can be done on land. The opportunity to violate the territorial waters of others arises frequently. Thus, it is not always correct to assume that the fishermen have intentionally gone to fish in the territorial waters of these neighboring countries.

Besides this, the behavior and actions of the officials of these countries are involved too. That is, the government officials in the countries that are neighbors of Thailand often have one thing in common with Thai officials and that is that their incomes are low. This has caused them to be dishonest in performing their duties. They must try to earn a supplementary income in other ways. Two easy ways are to use their power when they cannot obtain the profits they have asked for and to stop performing their duties when they gain personal benefits in return for doing so.

The Thai fishermen have probably studied this situation well. That is, they know that the officials of some neighboring countries like to make personal profits, or that a "drop of oil" must be applied to facilitate things. But later on, they may have been asked for greater sums than in the original agreement and therefore been unwilling to pay. Or the Thai fishermen may have felt that they were being asked to pay too much and so a dispute arose and they were arrested by the officials of neighboring countries on charges of fishing in

the territorial waters of these countries. Many Thai fishermen are well aware of what is happening. In some cases, Thai fishing boats have been seized while fishing in international waters. Weapons have been used to force the fishing boats into the territorial waters of that country. And in some cases, these [foreign officials] have acted like pirates. They have used warships to intercept the fishing boats and then robbed the fishermen when the boats have been full of fish. They then return home. This has happened in the Andaman Sea. This is the reason that the government has had to send naval warships out to patrol the area, which has made things safer for the fishermen.

However, ever since the government announced that it had approved the expansion of the special economic zone, or territorial waters zone, to 200 miles, the matter of fishing boats being charged with having infringed on the territorial waters of neighboring countries has arisen more frequently and more Thai fishing boats have been seized. Thai fishermen feel that they are being harassed and they question the way the government is handling this matter.

This is because, in solving this problem, Thai officials consider only what is convenient for them and they have shoved aside the various problems instead of considering the troubles of the fishermen and the common interests of the nation. For example, when a fishing boat is seized by the officials of a neighboring country, they claim that it was seized because it was secretly smuggling goods or that it had been hired to smuggle people into the country. I believe that this is probably true in some cases. But probably very few fishing boats engage in such activities since those who really work as fishermen would not want to take such a risk.

Concerning using the fact that a few fishing boats have been used to smuggle goods to make such claims or believing that all fishing boats are engaged in such activities, I do not feel that this is right. This is like saying that since there are a few corrupt officials, all government officials are corrupt. This is not right.

Besides this, there have also been reports that preparations are being made to revise the law in order to impose harsh penalties on fishing boats that fish in the territorial waters of neighboring countries. There has been a report that a law will be enacted to reduce the number of fishing boats so that they do not have to compete so hard for fishing grounds that they fish in the territorial waters of neighboring countries and encounter danger. I have listened to this and feel very sad about how the various government units in Thailand are attempting to solve this problem. Mostly, they are trying to solve the problem by placing all the blame on the fishermen without the government officials having to take any responsibility at all. They are just looking for a way to improve their own standard of living and increase their own incomes from the taxes paid by the fishermen. This method of solving problems is becoming popular in government circles in general. This is a very alarming situation.

Concerning the matter of the 200-mile special economic zone, Mr Praphan Manirot, a fisherman, has doubts about the claim by the minister of agriculture and cooperatives, who claimed that Thai fishing boats that had gone to fish in international waters had been fired on and seized by Vietnam and Kampuchea because they had violated the territorial waters of these countries. He asked whether there couldn't be some clarification about how far out into international waters Thailand's 200-mile economic zone extends and about how binding this is on other countries.

He also expressed surprise that, at present, Thailand does not seem to be defending its economic sea zone as strictly as other countries. Malaysia, Kampuchea and Burma have many ships out on patrol but he has not seen many Thai ships. Thus, he is not sure how much the announcement of the 200-mile economic zone has benefited Thailand, and he would like to ask the government to issue a map that would inform the fishermen and people in general.

Actually, having 200-mile economic zones was the idea of small countries that are located on the sea but that do not have enough ships to protect or preserve their natural ocean resources. They thus wanted to preserve the coastal zones in order to preserve these natural resources and keep other countries from trespassing in these zones. But, by chance, the coastal zones of each country are different. If the country has a gulf, like Thailand, the 200-mile zone overlaps with the territorial waters of a neighboring country. Thus, there must be international negotiations in order to reach an agreement on using the 200-mile economic zone jointly. Kampuchea cannot be allowed to claim the 200-mile zone for itself alone.

Concerning the fact that Thai fishing boats, which have been fishing in Thailand's 200-mile zone, have been charged by Kampuchea with infringing on Kampuchea's economic waters and that Thai officials have conceded that Thai fishing boats have entered the 200-mile zone of a neighboring country even though this is Thailand's 200-mile zone too, I do not feel that this is correct. The government must bear responsibility for our being placed at a disadvantage. When someone announces a 200-mile economic zone, it cannot just allow them to do this without considering the problems that may arise and without making preparations to solve them. But when a problem does arise, instead of the minister who is responsible for making decisions concerning 200-mile economic zones taking responsibility for the losses or troubles of the fishermen, he has considered solving the problem by reducing the number of fishing boats so that they will not have to compete for fishing grounds. He has done this instead of trying to secure wider fishing grounds or promulgating a law to punish fishing boats that have been charged with violating the territorial waters of a foreign country and instead of sending warships out to patrol the area to keep Thai fishing boats from being harassed by foreign countries or from infringing on the territorial waters of other countries.

I have constantly watched the way the government has tried to solve the fishing problem. I feel irritated because, someday, Thai fishing boats may be forbidden from fishing in international waters or a law may be promulgated forbidding Thais from earning a living as fishermen.

Clandestine Dealings With SRV

Bangkok PHYA KHRUT in Thai 12 May 82 pp 3, 12

[Political Secrets column by "6 October"]

[Text] Fishermen are going bankrupt! In Thailand today, wherever you look, people are praying for a better life.

This is a sign of poverty from which there is almost no escape. More and more people in various professions are going bankrupt. They have had to change professions because they were so poor.

The fishing profession is a profession that is now beginning to have many serious problems. "Approximately 20-30 percent of the fishermen have already gone bankrupt and people are leaving the profession in droves because of their large debts," said a news source in the Fishing Association of Thailand to PHYA KHRUT yesterday.

"They are living like debtors, that is, they do not know what to do," said the same news source, adding that the banks and private individuals have asked them to pay their debts but the fishermen are not making any profits.

The thing that greatly affected the fishermen was the rise in the price of gasoline in 1980. Since then, many fishermen have had to give up fishing since gasoline prices were just too high for them.

Those who can put up with these prices are the wealthy fishermen with large boats who can catch large quantities of fish and who have enough money to operate their boats.

Another thing that has affected fishermen is that the price of "duck fish" and fish meal is unstable and it is not high enough to cover expenses. The price of fish meal is set by the factories that produce animal food.

The reason why fish meal has been so disastrous for the fishermen is that, normally, 50-60 percent of the fish that are caught are fish that are used to produce animal food.

Actually, the fishermen have continually carried on a movement for fish price supports. And they have asked the government for special rights in purchasing gasoline. But they have achieved few results.

Thus they have had to be patient and carry on their work as if "waiting for death."

Besides this, another serious problem is that the quantity of fish in Thai territorial waters has decreased and so fishermen have frequently had to infringe on the territorial waters of other countries, with the result that boats have frequently been seized.

Commander Sawang Charoenphon, the director-general of the Department of Fisheries, stated that Thai fishing boats have been seized by all our neighboring countries. No progress has been made in the negotiations with India concerning India's seizure of six Thai boats.

The reason why more and more boats are being seized is that the declaration of 200-mile zones by each country has resulted in countries frequently claiming that their territorial waters have been violated.

And talking about the efficiency of Thai fishermen, or Thai fishing boats, other countries are not as efficient and so our fishermen frequently infringe on their territorial waters.

And the reports that fishermen are paying bribes to other countries such as Vietnam by taking war materials to them in exchange for the right to fish are certainly believable since otherwise they could not obtain fish to sell.

In investing in fishing, large sums must be invested, just as in industry, in which millions of baht must be invested. The money that is invested is borrowed money and so when problems arise on all fronts like this, large numbers of fishermen go bankrupt.

There is still no hope of the government being able to solve the problems. For example, the program to raise fry along the coast and similar programs have not expanded as they should have.

The budget of the Department of Fisheries is too small, amounting to only a few million baht each year.

The government is very strange. Hundreds of millions of baht are invested in programs to help make things more convenient for the wealthy people, such as building roads and bridges (which the vehicles of the poor people cannot use). But it takes a very long time to approve programs that would help provide jobs for the poor people and help improve their lives.

I just hope that the politicians do not wait so long that the people have only one choice left.

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

EAST BLOC LAW OF SEA SYMPOSIUM ADOPTS APPEAL

PM151425 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Jun 82 Morning Edition p 5

[A. Cherepanov report: "End of Meeting"]

[Text] The ninth general meeting of the Soviet Law of the Sea Association and international symposium on the Law of the Sea, being held in Moscow in conjunction with the oceanographic committee of the Soviet Union, has ended. Taking part in the meeting were well-known Soviet academicians and lawyers, personnel from a number of ministries and departments and specialists in the sphere of the international Law of the Sea from Hungary, the GDR, Bulgaria, Poland, Romania and the CSSR. In the unanimous opinion of the participants, the ninth general meeting was a further contribution to the elaboration of problems of the present-day Law of the Sea.

In view of the mounting tension in the international situation and guided by the peace initiatives put forward by L.I. Brezhnev at the 26th CPSU Congress and aimed at reaching agreement on "lowering the military presence in various regions of the world ocean" and also by the proposal he put forward at the 17th Soviet Trade Union Congress regarding the extension of "confidence-building measures to the seas and oceans, especially those regions through which the busiest sea routes run," the meeting participants adopted a statement entitled "For Peace and Security on the Seas and Oceans."

The statement says, in particular, that the participants in the ninth general meeting of the Soviet Law of the Sea Association resolutely support these peace initiatives and call "on everyone who is associated in any way through their activity with the study and utilization of the world ocean to do everything necessary to ensure peace and security on the seas and oceans and thereby to make a constructive contribution to the common cause of the struggle for world peace."

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GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OF MARINE RESOURCES

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 10 Jun 82 p 1

[Article by Daniel Mshana]

[Excerpt] The Government intends to undertake an intensive scientific research of marine resources in the country's coastal waters beginning next week.

The Director of Fisheries in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Ndugu G.K. Libaba, said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

He said a Norwegian-built vessel "Dr. Fridjof Nansen" would anchor at the Dar es Salaam port today ready to explore the country's marine resources.

The decision followed the increasing need to know precisely the abundance of the country's fishery resources, their seasonal concentration and immigration pattern.

He said the government had been much concerned with the present tendency by fishermen to fish haphazardly, unaware that fish, like animals, migrate from one area to another in search of food.

"The research will not only facilitate the identification by our fishermen of various areas where fish abundantly breed, but the whole exercise is also aimed to identifying areas with rare marine species so that they can be protected", Ndugu Libaba said.

He said the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) agreed to despatch an exploratory vessel to map out resources on biomass concentrations and physical/chemical oceanographic parameters.

He said that each cruise to take four weeks, would be in three phases during periods of South-East Monsoon beginning this month. Other cruises would be in October and in December.

Ndugu Libaba said the vessel had a crew of 13 scientists led by Captain R. Vindenes. "Some students from Mbegani Fisheries Development centre in Bagamoyo will be attached to the ship to learn various things as part of their field work. Four marine biologists from the University of Dar es Salaam, the Marine Science Institute in Zanzibar and the Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute, will also be involved", he explained.

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Reagan Demands Changes in Convention

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 82 p 5

[Article: "'Law' as Washington Sees It"]

[Text] Open disregard of the opinion of most states--this is the position occupied by the American delegation to the 11th Session of the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, presently convened in New York.

As we know, for the last 10 years the absolute majority of the more than 150 countries participating in the conference moved step by step, in a display of good will, toward achievement of mutually acceptable agreements, ones which were expressed in the draft convention on the law of the sea that was presented to the present session. The USA is doing everything it can to torpedo the work of the conference.

Thus President R. Reagan himself declared even before the 11th Session convened that all items which are in conflict with the American principles of free enterprise--that is, the principles of totally unconcealed imperialist plunder of the riches of the World Ocean--had to be removed from the document which has already been prepared and coordinated upon within the UN. But there is more. The American delegation presented 43 pages of demands which fundamentally alter the interpretation of most of the clauses contained in the draft convention. And inasmuch as Washington's demands are encountering resistance, the English newspaper FINANCIAL TIMES reports, the USA and a number of its allies intend to conclude a separate treaty among themselves for monopolistic development of the natural resources of the ocean floor.

Most participants of the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea validly interpret the claims of the White House as a threat to the sovereign rights of independent states and as a return to colonial orders that have faded into the distant past.

LOS Conference Rejects Proposed Changes

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Apr 82 p 4

[Article: "Proposals Rebuffed"]

[Text] Relying on its powerful navy and on its technical advantage over many countries, the USA intends to be the first to get its hands on the treasurehouse of

minerals hidden in the ocean floor. It is with this goal in mind that official representatives of Washington are structuring their obstructive tactics in the excessively drawn out UN negotiations to develop an international treaty on the law of sea.

A draft convention satisfying the interests of the overwhelming majority of the planet's countries was prepared after many years of effort by member states of the Permanent UN Conference on the Law of the Sea. The participants of the present session of the conference on the law of the sea demand approval of the draft convention as an entire package--that is, they demand approval of the fundamental articles of the treaty. As has been demonstrated in the statements made by representatives of many countries participating in the conference, the actions of the USA are aimed at fundamentally scrapping the articles of the convention concerned with deep-sea mineral extraction. Washington and a small group of its followers are working for unilateral advantages for their monopolies. They have absolutely no sense of reality, they cannot understand that the time of unrestricted dictatorship has faded irreversibly into the past. The overwhelming majority of the participants of the present session of the conference on the law of the sea, convened at the UN, made this clear to the presumptuous pretenders of the riches of the sea bed. The present session rejected all of the USA's attempts to amend, in behalf of its monopolies, already agreed-upon draft document regulating the rules of utilizing the World Ocean. The session's participants totally refused to examine the subversive American proposals. This is not the first time Washington and its accomplices have found themselves standing alone in the solution of the most important international problems.

U.S. Holds Out for Unilateral Advantages

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Apr 82 p 5

[Article: "The USA's Self-Interested Claims"]

[Text] The USA is attempting to drag out the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, which has already made a decision to finish writing, during the present session, an international convention which will establish, for the first time in history, the general norms and rules of using the resources of the World Ocean in behalf of all mankind.

In the back rooms of the conference, the American representatives are intensively "working over" the delegations from the other countries these days with the purpose of forcing them to reenter negotiations in the course of which the USA's self-interested demands could be satisfied at the expense of the interests of other countries.

Speaking at the plenary session, G. Malone, the head of the American delegation, once again repeated demands that have already been rejected by the conference as totally unacceptable, as dismantling the entire package of agreements arrived at by more than 150 countries.

Work went on for about 8 years on the draft convention. The result of this work was a carefully balanced document consisting of more than 300 articles.

The following incident is typical of the imperial position occupied by the USA at the session: The newspaper NEW YORK TIMES published an editorial in which the opinion was stated that the USA will waive some of its objections to the draft convention and that a compromise will be achieved. This proposal from the American newspaper was met by a hostile reception from the American delegation. It immediately made an arrogant statement emphasizing that "in the next few weeks all countries must apply an enormous effort to make the United States agree to support and sign the draft convention."

Responding to this big power declaration, A. Prandler, the chief of the Hungarian delegation said that the sincere effort to come closer to the position of the overwhelming majority of the member states of the conference must be made not by "all countries" but by the United States. As with the delegations from other countries, the Hungarian delegation has no intention of yielding to Washington's attempt to achieve unilateral advantages for itself.

At the conference, the USA's position is enjoying support--though far from unquestioning--only from four countries: England, France, the FRG and Japan. The rest of the states, irrespective of their political orientation, decisively reject Washington's blackmail.

S. P. Kozyrev, the chief of the USSR delegation, noted that the absolute majority of the states have voted in favor of the convention's adoption at the present session on the basis of the existing draft. The U.S. delegation is opposing this position with an obstructionist line.

In our opinion, the USSR representative continued, all of the prerequisites for adopting the convention have been fulfilled at the conference. The USSR delegation expresses the hope that the USA and some of its allies will put an end to their attempts to obtain unilateral benefits and privileges at the expense of the interests of other countries and nations. Only a convention based on the principle of full sovereign equality of all of its participants would satisfy the interests of equitable cooperation among states, the interests of peace and international security.

U.S. Pursues Marine Arms Race

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 21 Apr 82 p 3

[Article by Aleksandr Mozgovoy: "Who Is Muddying Up the Waters of the Ocean?"]

[Text] The board of directors of the American multisector Tenneco Corporation recently announced that it will lay off 5,000 workers. The company's bosses gave "financial difficulties" as the excuse for their decision. This same corporation took out a one-page advertisement in the newspapers. The headline declared in large letters: "Mr President, we've started!" What were they talking about? A nuclear aircraft carrier and atomic submarine were lowered simultaneously from Tenneco's building dock and handed over to the U.S. Navy. It was in this way that the firm's executives decided to gain the gratitude of the White House which is spiraling the race in marine arms upward.

Production is closing down in civilian sectors and laborers are being thrown into the streets in the United States with the blessing of the present Republican administration, while concurrently the bank accounts of the businessmen of death are growing. The Pentagon's ship building program will mean a golden rain of profits for the bosses of Tenneco and similar corporations: \$100 billion will be spent in the next few years to acquire 150 warships.

Some people in Washington intend to transform the entire World Ocean into an "American lake." The latest conception of "one giant war" is foreseen as a means for achieving this goal. Its authors are Pentagon chief C. Weinberger and Secretary of the Navy J. Lehman. The latter has declared the era of the "great American fleet which will be able to operate without any problems simultaneously in different regions of the world--in the Far and Near East, in the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean, in the North and South Atlantic, in the Mediterranean and Caribbean seas, in the Eastern Pacific and on the marine oil transportation routes about Africa."

The adventuristic nature of such plans is obvious. Of course, the United States will not be able to frighten the USSR and its allies with its growing militaristic preparations in the oceans. As was emphasized many times by the Soviet government, the socialist countries possess the necessary potentials to foil the plans of imperialism aimed at achieving military superiority. At the same time we cannot close our eyes to the serious consequences of the race in marine arms. After all, it is threatening the security of the peoples of all continents.

Atomic submarines outfitted with strategic missiles patrol vast regions of the ocean. The Soviet Union has indicated the need for correcting this situation many times. During the 32d Session of the UN General Assembly the USSR made an appeal to begin negotiations with the purpose of reaching agreement on barring nuclear missiles ships from certain regions of the World Ocean and on other possible measures for limiting the nuclear arms race there. In 1978 our country turned to the USA with a proposal to remove, from the Mediterranean Sea, Soviet and American ships and submarines carrying nuclear weapons.

Alas, these initiatives were not met with any understanding in Washington. Moreover the United States is intending to significantly increase the "sphere of activities" of its strategic naval forces. The Pentagon is not hiding its plans, in particular, for deploying its latest "Ohio" class atomic submarines, each armed with 24 Trident missiles, in the Indian Ocean and the South Pacific. That is, South and Southeast Asia as well as Australia and New Zealand will essentially be transformed into nuclear hostages of the USA.

Prevent atomic catastrophe, including one originating from the oceans: This is the noble goal the Soviet Union has posed to itself. In his speech to the 17th Congress of Trade Unions, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev proposed mutually limiting the activities of the NATO and Warsaw Pact navies. "In particular, we felt that it might be possible to bar the missile submarines of both sides from the vast regions presently subjected to combat patrol, to limit their cruising to within mutually agreed upon boundaries," he declared. Acceptance of this proposal would have reduced the "threshold of mistrust" between the East and West, and it would have been a major step on the road to disarmament and to consolidation of peace.

But unfortunately the U.S administration rejected the Soviet initiative. In the words of a White House representative, it supposedly "fully satisfies only the mercenary interests of the Russians." The obvious question is: What is "mercenary" about this? After all, the limitations must apply equally to submarines of the USSR Navy as well. The restraint our country is calling for satisfies the interests of the security of the American people as well. Obviously Washington is even prepared to sacrifice these interests in support of the plans of the militarists. And their ambitions truly know no bounds.

Expansion in all directions: This is the essence of the Pentagon's ocean strategy. The flywheel of military preparations is turning at top speed. Naval maneuvers barely manage to come to an end before others are begun. Just in the Caribbean basin alone the USA and its allies conducted seven exercises since October of last year! They involved hundreds of ships and airplanes, and many thousands of seamen and officers. "We can quickly organize a blockade of the Caribbean Sea, even though this step would be an act of war," is what American Secretary of the Navy J. Lehman boasts in hegemonic passion. It would not be difficult to surmise what he is talking about--organizing aggression against Cuba and Nicaragua. That same Lehman is also posing a threat to Libya with his intentions of sending a squadron of the U.S. Sixth Fleet into the Gulf of Sidra. Last year such maneuvers led to armed confrontation, which almost turned into a serious crisis in the Mediterranean Sea. But the Pentagon has decided to repeat this provocation.

On the initiative of Sri Lanka, back in 1971 the UN General Assembly adopted a declaration making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace. In order to achieve the fastest possible implementation of such an important decision, the Soviet Union initiated negotiations with the United States on limiting and subsequently reducing military activities in this region. But the USA broke the dialog unilaterally. Washington also broke up preparations for an international conference on the Indian Ocean in 1981, and it is doing everything it can to keep such a forum from convening in the future.

The Pentagon is engaging in subversive activities with the purpose of discrediting Sri Lanka. Everything appeared innocent at first glance. The New York-based Ridaco International Company proposed, to the government of this island state, construction of an oil storage site at Sri Lanka's port of Trincomalee. What for? To refuel ships of the U.S. Seventh Fleet. The plan is simple: Were Colombo to give its consent to creation of an American base, Sri Lanka's authority as the initiator of the declaration on the zone of peace would be undermined.

The Soviet Union's position in relation to the Indian Ocean is well known. The USSR is prepared to continue negotiations at any time with the USA on limiting military activities in this region. Our country envisions no obstacles before itself to extending similar measures to the Pacific Ocean.

But turning the facts upside down, Washington's propaganda machine is attempting to show that our country is the main source of "threats" in the oceans. What can we say? The Pentagon has always said the same thing as an excuse for its own malicious preparations. Meanwhile the USA's imperial pretensions are perpetually visible through this thin disguise. To persuade oneself of this, it would be sufficient to look at the proceedings of the 11th UN Session on the Law of the Sea in New York.

The American delegation is once again attempting to scuttle the previously agreed upon text of the convention with the goal of preventing just international control over extraction of resources from the sea bed. The unprecedented growth of the American navy can be explained in great part by Uncle Sam's aspiration to establish police control over ocean regions rich in valuable raw materials.

Now the attention of international society is riveted on the South Atlantic. Steering away from a peaceful solution to the Falklands problem, London sent a squadron of 40 warships to the islands and declared the region of the archipelago a "war zone." It is premature to predict the future course of events at the moment, but one thing is clear: NATO has decided to capitalize on the crisis by spiraling the arms race at sea upward one more turn.

These militaristic intrigues on the oceanic lines of communication are leading to tragic consequences even in peacetime. In spring of last year the American atomic submarine "George Washington" collided with the Japanese vessel "Nissio-Maru" and sank it. Almost the entire crew perished. While flying over the Mediterranean Sea, a DC-9 airliner belonging to Italy's ATI veered away from a missile launched by one of the ships of the U.S. Sixth Fleet at the very last moment. In March of this year the American submarine "Jacksonville" rammed a Turkish steamship. Luckily the damaged vessel was able to reach a nearby port. The list of such disasters and accidents can be lengthened further. A special commission of the U.S. House of Representatives revealed that almost a fourth of the personnel of the U.S. Navy use hard drugs regularly. And imagine, these potion-befuddled people are standing watch at the helms of ships and the control consoles of weapons!

Considering the continually growing danger of the race in marine arms and of the military activities on ocean lines of communication, the Soviet Union is lobbying for their fastest possible elimination. "We would also be prepared to discuss the issue of extending measures of trust to the seas and oceans, especially to those regions through which the busiest marine routes pass," emphasized Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev in his speech to the 17th Congress of Trade Unions. "In a word, we are in favor of making the largest possible part of the World Ocean a zone of peace in the immediate future." This proposal is supported by all to whom peace on the planet is precious.

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USSR

OFFICIAL SAYS IMPERIALISTS IGNORE SEA LAW

LD180944 Moscow TASS in English 0845 GMT 18 Jun 82

["Flouting the Law of the Sea" -- TASS headline; quotation marks as received]

[Text] Moscow June 18 TASS -- "Fruitful international cooperation in using the world ocean is inconceivable without observing the principles of peaceful coexistence and pursuing a policy of detente and ensuring international security", A. Kolodkin, doctor of science (jurisprudence), chairman of the Soviet Association on the Law of the Sea and vice-president of the International Maritime Committee, said in an interview with the newspaper SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA. As is known, vast expanses on the high seas do not come under the sovereignty and control of states. The United States and its allies are trying to use this fact for militarising the oceans and for the ruthless exploitation of the resources of the seabed by monopolies. Therefore it is necessary to take measures that would raise a barrier to the aggressive aspirations of imperialism." They in the West often and loudly talk of international law and the need for observing it. But in practice international law, including the Law of the Sea, is violated or ignored by imperialist states," A. Kolodkin stressed.

We all witnessed the Anglo-Argentine conflict over the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands, Kolodkin said. London resorted to the colonialist methods of "gunboat policy" and declared the zone around the archipelago as well as vast expanses in the South Atlantic closed to the ships and planes of other countries. Such actions contradict the 1958 convention on open sea and the generally recognized principle of the freedom of navigation. Britain's blockade of the South Atlantic caused considerable damage to international commercial and economic links. Because of the danger of being drowned, scores of tankers, dry-cargo ships and fishing vessels have to stay at ports. "This throw-back to colonialism in the South Atlantic is to be explained by the desire of London and Washington to secure for themselves strong military-strategic positions in an area of the ocean with important sea lanes," A. Kolodkin said.

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USSR

BRIEFS

OIL POLLUTION REMEDIES--PM71525 [Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian on 23 May carries on page 6 a 900-word V. Tsybulskiy interview entitled "Helping the Ocean" with Candidate of Technical Sciences M.P. Nesterova, chief of the [presumably Moscow P.P. Shirshov] Oceanology Institute Analytical Laboratory, on methods and materials currently used or being developed in the Soviet Union to combat the problem of oil pollution at sea. Among those outlined are a specially-treated perlite which absorbs 20 times its own weight in oil spillage, a pollution-free method of cleaning out tankers using an emulsion, oil-consuming bacteria, liquid polyurethane to contain oil slicks, and dispersants. The interviewee points out that "all the materials developed in the analytical laboratory have been tested in natural conditions--in the Baltic and Black Seas. They have been proved harmless to living organisms."

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